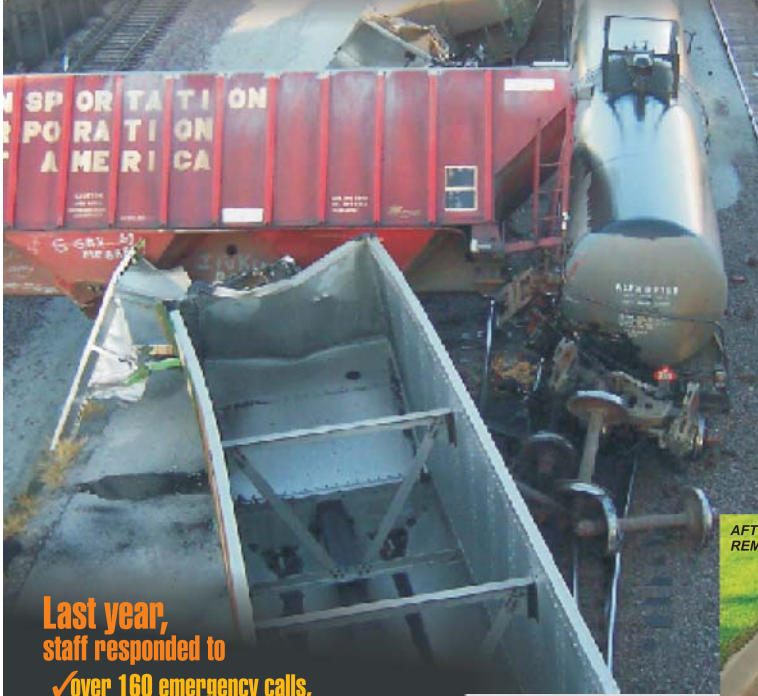


Pollution Prevention Programs & Emergency Response Training Helps Sustain Our Air, Land & Water Quality.



A railroad tank car containing 25,580 gallons of a flammable and toxic chemical was punctured in a crash on October 8, 2004. The Health Department response team worked with Lincoln Fire and Rescue, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the BNSF railroad hazardous teams to contain the spill and prevent any injuries on exposure.

Health Department staff assure that environmental and health hazards are properly assessed and that cleanups are in compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations.

Household Hazardous waste collections prevent toxic chemicals from reaching our waterways and polluting our air and land.

Last year, staff responded to

- ✓over 160 emergency calls,
- ✓collected over 91,900 pounds of household hazardous waste
- ✓assisted in the clean up of 28 methamphetamine labs.



This year, the Health Department was one of 31 out of 172 local health departments nationwide to receive the Project Public Health Ready Award. Given by the National Association of City and County Health Officials, Project Ready has provided staff with training and resources to improve our ability and capacity when responding to all emergencies.



Emergency Response staff received new equipment and training in 2004. The team is better prepared to respond to chemical spills, meth labs, and the improper disposal of toxic and hazardous materials.

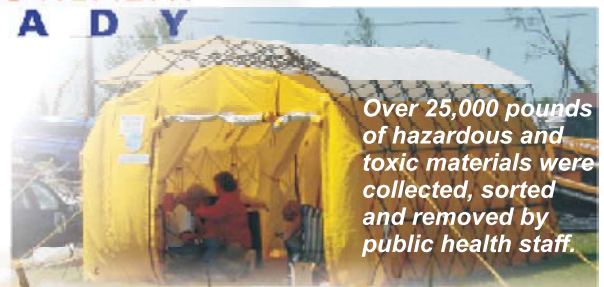


The Lincoln Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is a community-wide effort involving a vast array of local agencies and health care providers aimed at improving our medical response to a weapon of mass destruction event or other catastrophic event.

A new portable chemical spectrometer will aid with the identification of unknown substances. Most results can be obtained in 15 minutes. The equipment will allow Health Department staff to better assist local law enforcement and fire departments with chemical spills and clandestine methamphetamine drug labs.



Jim Bare operates new spectrometer.



Over 25,000 pounds of hazardous and toxic materials were collected, sorted and removed by public health staff.

